Elaine A. Leist attended the Southeastern Louisiana College and later completed her college degree at Fairfax University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mrs. Leist is the Deputy Garrison Commander at the U.S. Army Garrison, Carlisle Barracks where she manages base operations. In this position, she directs all areas of installation management to include financial, personnel, engineering, environmental, logistics, law enforcement, force protection and community activities.

Mrs. Leist assignments have included installation and headquarters level positions in the United States, Japan and Europe. At Fort Ritchie, Maryland, she served as Youth Activities Coordinator and as the Director of Personnel and Community Activities.

In June 1985, she was assigned to the 9th Area Support Group, Camp Zama, Japan as the Chief of Youth Services. During her tenure she was promoted to the Chief of Army Community Services and then as the first Family Support Division Chief in the Far East.

In September 1989, Mrs. Leist returned to the European Theater for an assignment as Chief, Family Support Division and later as the Director of Community Activities. She was later selected by USAREUR to serve on the consolidation team for the Worms/Mannheim Community.

In January 1991, Mrs. Leist was transferred to Headquarters, 21st TAACOM in Kaiserslautern, Germany as a Program Analyst in the Base Operations Advisory Cell. Then, in June 1992, she was selected as the first Executive Officer for the 415th Base Support Battalion.

Mrs. Leist is a graduate of the Army Management Staff College and the Garrison Commander's Pre-Command Course. Additionally, she is a trained Mediation Techniques Specialist. Her awards include Meritorious Civilian Service Award, Civilian Superior Service Award, Japanese Government Service Award and the Commanding General's Winner Circle Award.